

**Work Session  
Minutes  
January 9, 2006**

*A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia, Bergen County, New Jersey, was held this evening in the Borough Hall Annex, commencing at 7:30pm*

**Council Present:** Mayor Laurence Cherchi, Councilperson

**Council Absent:** none

**Also Present:** Fran Lehmann, Borough Clerk, Brian Giblin, Borough Attorney, Victoria Miragliotta, Borough Administrator

Mayor Laurence Cherchi called the meeting to order.

Mayor Laurence Cherchi asked everyone to stand while Councilman President Puzzo led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OPEN MEETING STATEMENT**

Conditions of the Open Meeting Act have been met by Notice placed on the Bulletin Board at Borough Hall and notices sent to the Official Newspaper.

Mayor Cherchi pointed out the Fire Exit.

Mayor Cherchi introduced Borough Attorney Brian Giblin.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one spoke.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

a. Rules of Order; This item was held over from the Reorganization Meeting held on January 4, 2006. The Governing Body discussed various changes to the Rules of Order. After much discussion it was decided that the first meeting of the month would be a "Work Session/Regular Meeting." Other changes were discussed and requested that the Borough Attorney prepare them for the next meeting.

b. Borough Hall Improvements and Plans; The Borough Administrator explained the plans for the construction at Borough Hall. Councilman Hawkins would like the Governing Body to consider hiring a bi-lingual receptionist, to sit in the front office, answer questions, and assist residents filling out forms. The Governing Body discussed his recommendations. The Borough Administrator reminded the Council, that if a person works more than 20 hours a week we are obligated under, New Jersey State Health

47 Benefits to provide benefits. The Borough Administrator will contact the architect and  
48 have final plans prepared.

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50 c. Vander Valk Resolution on Eminent Domain; Mayor Cherchi asked the Council to  
51 consider passing the Resolution presented by Assemblywoman Vander Valk. After a  
52 discussion the Governing Body decided to have the Laws and Ordinances Committee  
53 review the resolution and make their recommendation to the Governing Body.

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55 d. Recreation Winter Program; Councilwoman Mitrani expressed her concern about a  
56 notice that appeared in the Recreation Winter Program. It appears to be an ad. The  
57 Governing Body discussed the issue and directed the Borough Administrator to notify the  
58 Director that this is not to be done in the future.

59  
60 e. Landscaping and Landscaping Maintenance Downtown; Councilwoman Mitrani would  
61 like to know who is responsible for maintaining the downtown landscape? In the past she  
62 has tried to have organizations and merchants volunteer to maintain areas along Broad  
63 Avenue. This approach has not worked. The Governing Body agreed that this is a  
64 function of the Department of Public Works and the DPW Committee will address it with  
65 the Superintendent.

66  
67 f. Checking of Parking and Traffic Signs; Councilwoman Mitrani asked who is  
68 responsible for maintaining or reporting that signs are missing or need to be replaced?  
69 The Borough Administrator reported that she has spoken with Mr. Saitta and the  
70 Department of Public Works has the ability to make some signs and others need to be  
71 ordered. The Police Department should be notifying the Superintendent of missing a sign  
72 or signs that need to be replaced. Both the Police Commission and DPW Committee will  
73 speak to their respective Department Heads.

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75 g. Recycling Compliance Town- wide; Councilwoman Mitrani would like to see more  
76 recycling town-wide. The Governing Body discussed various problems in this area and  
77 Councilman Hawkins said he would discuss this with the Environmental Commission.

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79 h. Council Liaison to Traffic Officer; Councilwoman Mitrani would like a liaison to be  
80 appointed to the Traffic Officer. Mayor Cherchi felt this was unnecessary as the Police  
81 Chief should be directing the operations of the Department. The Borough Administrator  
82 stated this would be contrary to law; could not go about it the way it is being proposed  
83 the Copuncil needs to follow the chain of command. The Police Commission will speak  
84 to the Chief regarding this issue.

85  
86 Councilman Puzzo made a motion to extend the Meeting for one hour, seconded by  
87 Councilwoman Heveran. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani,  
88 Raucci, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Motion carried.

89  
90 i. Fire Committee: Councilwoman Heveran referred to legal opinion distributed by the  
91 Borough Attorney regarding the Fire Committee and who makes the appointment. Mayor  
92 Cherchi will make an appointment at the next meeting.

- 93  
94 j. LFD Cell Phones; The Borough Administrator read a memo from the Chief Financial  
95 Officer and reminded the Governing Body that once this approved it cannot be cut from  
96 this years' budget. A resolution will be prepared for the meeting of January 18, 2006.  
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98 k. Exhaust System at the Fire House; Councilwoman Heveran handed out a brochure  
99 regarding a system she saw at the League of Municipalities Conference in November.  
100 The Borough Administrator will have the Borough Engineer look at the system and the  
101 Fire House and make a recommendation regarding the system that would suit their needs.  
102  
103 l. Tree Gators; Councilwoman Mitrani would like "tree gators" around newly planted  
104 trees this would alleviate the need for daily watering. The only issue is who would be  
105 responsible for filling them. Councilman Ryan said this will be discussed by the DPW  
106 Committee.  
107  
108 m. Merchants Recycling; Councilwoman Mitrani reported that she has met with  
109 merchants regarding recycling. Many times they tell her they didn't know they had to  
110 recycle. Councilwoman Mitrani also noted that some of the merchants flatten their  
111 cardboard while others simply throw it on the curb. Is there someway they can be forced  
112 to put the recycling out so that it not thrown all over? After a discussion by the  
113 Governing Body it was decided that guidelines that were prepared by the Superintendent  
114 of Public Works be distributed, if the merchants don't comply then they will have to pay  
115 to have the recyclables picked-up privately.  
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117 n. Citizens Hotline to Borough Hall; Councilwoman Mitrani would like to implement a  
118 way for a citizen to register a complaint and receive a response that their complaint has  
119 been received and is being addressed. Mayor Cherchi stated we have forms that address  
120 complaints a person needs to fill out the form and turn it into the Administrator who will  
121 respond to the complaint. The Council discussed the suggestion and this maybe  
122 something a receptionist could handle.  
123

#### 124 **NEW BUSINESS**

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- 126 a). Packet Delivery; Councilwoman Heveran would like the Mayor and Council agenda  
127 packets delivered on Thursday evening instead of Friday. She feels this would allow the  
128 Governing Body enough time to review the items on the agenda. And if something is on  
129 the agenda they need clarification on, they have the opportunity before the meeting, to  
130 contact the Borough Administrator. After a discussion by the Governing Body they  
131 agreed to change the delivery to Thursday. All agenda information needs to be given to  
132 the Borough Clerk by the close of business on the Wednesday preceding the meeting, so  
133 the agenda may be e-mailed to the Governing Body on Wednesday afternoon. And the  
134 agenda meeting would be on Thursday at 10:00am.  
135  
136 b). 2006 Goals and Objectives; Council President Puzzo explained that one of the  
137 objectives of the Council is to work with each of the Departments. He would like to see  
138 service improvements, cost saving objectives and environmental improvements. The

Governing Body discussed the role of Committees directing the Departments. Both the Borough Attorney and the Borough Administrator pointed out this would be contrary to Borough Ordinances.

c). Sewer Problems on Spring Street; Councilwoman Heveran asked the Council what they would like to do about the problems on Spring Street. After a discussion by the Governing Body they asked the Borough Administrator to have the Borough Engineer look into the problems and report back with a realistic cost estimate and what the exact problems are.

Goals & Objectives of Finance & Personnel Committee; Councilwoman Heveran reported that as noted earlier by the Council it is one of the objectives of the Finance and Personnel Committee to hire a receptionist for Borough Hall.

### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Robert Pacicco, 530 Grandview Terrace; Mr. Pacicco commented on the actions of the Council.

Mr. Martin Monaco, 532 Highwood Avenue; Mr. Monaco asked when the Governing Body was going to respond to his letter of July 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **CLOSED SESSION (RESOLUTION)**

A motion was made to go into closed session by Councilman Puzzo, seconded by Councilman Hawkins. All in favor; none opposed.

A motion was made to come out of closed session by Councilman Puzzo, seconded by Councilman Hawkins. All in favor; none opposed

Councilman Puzzo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Heveran. All in favor, none opposed.

As there was no further business before the Governing Body, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10pm

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Lehmann  
Borough Clerk